

PREFACE

The Rhode Island State Planning Council, initially called the Policy Committee, was organized on December 20, 1963. It was established by statute in 1978 and is charged with developing and maintaining a State Guide Plan as the basic guide for the long-term physical, economic, and social development of the state. The Statewide Planning Program within the Department of Administration provides staff support to the Council.

The Statewide Planning Program prepares and maintains plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state; encourages their implementation; and coordinates the actions of state, local and federal agencies and private individuals within the framework of the state's development goals and policies. Sections 42-11-10 and 12 of the General Laws establish the basic charge. This mandate requires that the Program formulate plans which help guide the state's efforts to promote economic improvement and which integrate these efforts into an overall framework which also considers requirements for physical development, protection of the environment, and the overall needs of the state's population.

The Economic Development Strategy, which was adopted as an element of the State Guide Plan in 1986, established a basic goal and specific policies for economic development which recognize "fixed elements" such as topography, climate, and natural resources, and which use the "flexible elements" of labor force, transportation, and infrastructure. Its purpose was to present strategies for the use of the flexible elements in ways which emphasize the strengths and minimize the weaknesses of the fixed elements, and which are consistent with related goals, policies, and plans.

Today, however, strategies for economic development are being developed by the Rhode Island Economic Policy Council. This changes the focus of the economic development element of the State Guide Plan. The new element, *Economic Development Policies and Plan*, will not include strategies *per se*, but its objectives and policies will be used by staff to review all projects and comprehensive plans that by statute must be reviewed by the Statewide Planning Program for consistency with the State Guide Plan. The issues in this element are not presented, and the policies are not given, in priority order. In our reviews, the economic development policies will be balanced with policies in other elements of the State Guide Plan, addressing land use, transportation, recreation and open space, water supply, housing, and energy.

The review process assures the implementation of the policies that are set forth in the elements of the *State Guide Plan*. For example, the Statewide Planning Program is the single point of contact (SPOC) designated by Executive Order 83-11 to administer the state process for reviewing and commenting on proposed federal financial assistance and direct development activities. All eligible applications for federal loans, grants or technical assistance must be consistent with comprehensive state, area, and local plans. Moreover, the State Planning Council and the State Guide Plan are the major state mechanisms for relating state policy and priorities to ongoing development activities. By law, projects of the Economic Development Corporation must be reviewed by the Council for conformance to the State Guide Plan.

Critical elements for any state economic development planning process are collaborations between long-range planners and strategic planners, between state officials and local practitioners, and between the public and private sectors. The staff has drawn upon all these sources for guidance in developing the *Economic Policies and Plan* as a tool to be used over the short and long term.

Staff members responsible for the plan include Joyce Karger, Senior Planner, and Everett Carvalho, Senior Planner, of the Economic Development Planning Section, working under the supervision of Bruce F. Vild, Supervising Planner, and John P. O'Brien, Chief of Statewide Planning. Joyce Karger was the chief author. Everett Carvalho prepared the graphics. Linda O. Resendes, Sr. Word Processing Typist assisted with word processing and formatting. Kim A. Gelfuso, Information Services Technician made the draft available for review on the Statewide Planning Program web site. Additional staff assistance was provided by Mansuet J. Guisti, Supervising Draftsperson.

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Report Organization

The *Economic Development Policies and Plan* is divided into parts and chapters each with a number designation. For example, Part Two, Chapter Three is headed **02-03**. Each part is paginated separately. Page numbers appear at the bottom of each page, the part number first, then a decimal point, and then the page number. Thus the second page of Part Two is numbered **2.2**.

Tables and figures follow a convention established by Statewide Planning whereby each is keyed to the State Guide Plan by a hyphenated numbering system. A three-digit number preceding the hyphen corresponds to one of the following categories of the Guide Plan:

000	State Guide Plan Overview
100	Resources Management and Utilization
200	Economic Development
300	Environmental Programs
400	Human Services
500	(Reserved)
600	Transportation Systems
700	Utility Systems
800	(Reserved)
900	(Reserved)

The Economic Development Policies and Plan falls within the Economic Development category and is numbered **211**. The numbering system for each table and figure therefore designates, for example, the second table in Part Two as **Table 211-02(2)**. The number **211** also appears before each part number (e.g., **211-01**, **211-02**).

This report incorporates a system of citing sources that should relieve some of the congestion common to footnotes in this type of document. All references are numbered in the Bibliography in the order in which they are cited in the plan. Numbers enclosed by double parentheses indicate citations in the text. The authors credit a direct quotation by using the reference number from the Notes and References followed by the number of the page on which the quotation is found in the reference. Thus, quoted or paraphrased material from page 22 of the ninth reference listed in the Notes and References will be cited **((9:22))**. Narrative that relies on significant portions of one or more references, and footnotes that clarify the text, will be identified by reference number only (e.g., **((9)))**.

Adoption

This report was adopted by the State Planning Council as Element 211 of the State Guide Plan on April 13, 2000. It replaced the older version, known as the *Economic Development Strategy*, also designated as Element 211, on that date.